

News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Wyoming Cancer Conference to Emphasize Survivors

With a focus on cancer survivorship, the 2009 Wyoming Cancer Conference is set for April 29-30 in Sheridan at the Holiday Inn.

“Cancer is a subject that impacts everyone one way or another,” states Jessica Perez, Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program outreach specialist with the Wyoming Department of Health.

“Saddle Up For a Cure” is the theme for the conference, which is intended for a diverse audience including physicians, healthcare providers, policymakers, educators, cancer patients, survivors and their families.

“A diagnosis of cancer is no longer a death sentence,” says Kimberly Rogers, two-time cancer survivor and Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program manager with the Wyoming Department of Health. “John Diamond, renowned journalist, once said ‘cancer is a word, not a sentence’ and he was right.”

Featured presenters include Lori Benson, award-winning filmmaker and cancer survivor. Benson will screen her cancer journey documentary “DEAR TALULA,” and discuss the survivor companion guide she developed. Kevin Sharp, cancer survivor and Nashville country recording artist, will perform at the conference dinner reception. As a teenager Sharp was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer that spread to his lungs, and was told his chance of survival was slim. After going into remission, Sharp became a successful country music with numerous award nominations.

In addition, speakers from Wyoming and Colorado will provide general cancer information about nutrition, cancer and Native Americans, and pediatric cancers. A national American Cancer Society representative will discuss recommended screening tests for colorectal cancer.

The conference is being organized by members of the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium (WCCCC), which has worked to promote cancer prevention and control in Wyoming following the enactment of the Wyoming Cancer Control Act in 2007

For more information about attending the conference, contact Perez at 307-777-7362.

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